

Welcome to the State Board's Education Transformation Policy Commission. Thank you for agreeing to serve. As you know from your introductory discussions with Bill Romond, this is a very important commission with a challenging charge to **propose a policy framework and specific policy recommendations to the State Board that could best advance education transformation in Vermont.**

How can we use state level policy to leverage education transformation throughout Vermont's public education system?

This is a difficult question to answer. For the policy commission to form an answer, it will be important to come to a common set of expectations for education transformation and then to explore how state policy could help us reach these expectations. We will all be on a steep learning curve. But we believe that the wealth of different experiences among the commission members and the dynamic of collaborative work will yield thoughtful and effective recommendations for the State Board.

The commission is accepting a critical responsibility and scope of work. Bill Romond has already shared with you a tentative scope of work for the commission. For your convenience, I've included this as an attachment. In summary, we would like to look at pertinent research and experiences in other states, reach agreements on the way we'd like to use policy to leverage transformation, do in-depth policy development work in priority areas, solicit input and feedback from various stakeholders, and then finalize our recommendations for submission to the State Board.

The commission will need to be daring and innovative. You have an opportunity to truly shape and influence Vermont's transformation efforts in all our schools. Our role will be to support you with information, access to national research and transformation leaders, and staff to facilitate your meetings and work. We look forward to lively debates and thoughtful choices.

We'd like to schedule the first two meetings so you can better manage your own calendars. We know that you are all very busy and we want to respect your time as a member of the commission. As we expect to have two legislators involved on the commission, we would like to schedule the policy commission meetings on Monday, if that works for everyone. We'd like to schedule the first 2 meetings for February 23 and March 9. We will discuss a longer term work schedule once we are all together. Montpelier is the most central location for members, so we plan to conduct meetings in Montpelier. We are tentatively planning 3 hour meetings (9-12), but welcome your feedback about the duration of meetings. Some of the members will travel from a distance and may prefer longer meetings to justify the travel time. We will also explore alternatives to meetings (e.g., sub-committees; electronic communications) for getting our work done.

During our first meeting together, we will

- ☐ Get to know each other
- ☐ Explore Vermont's vision for education transformation and translate the vision into more tangible teaching and learning practices
- ☐ Discuss characteristics and strategy for effective state level education policy

In preparation for our first meeting, we ask that you take some time to reflect on your own thoughts regarding the following questions:

1. What do you see as the top two changes that must occur in Vermont's education system if all students will be better prepared for successful lives in the 21st century?
2. What state and school practices need to be transformed to accomplish these two changes?
3. What are characteristics of effective state level education policy?

You will have an opportunity to share your thoughts on these questions during our first meeting. To help stimulate your thinking and to build some common understanding of education policy strategies, we have attached several documents. We do not offer these as "right answers" – but only as stimulus for thinking and discussion. Please make every effort to review them prior to our first meeting. You might make margin notations on ideas of interest.

- Florida's 2004 Middle School Reform Act
- Rhode Islands 2008 K12 Transformation Regulations
- Tennessee High School Transition 2008 Rules
- Oregon's 2008 Quality of Education Model
- How the World's Best School Systems Come Out on Top
- Ensuring US Students Receive a World Class Education

Please RSVP on your ability to attend each of these two meetings. Also provide any feedback on your preferences on meeting times and processes. Looking forward to working with you on this important task.